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09/499,819	02/08/2000	Sivaramakrishna Kuditipudi	FORE-57	1785

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EXAMINER

BLAIR, DOUGLAS B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2142

DATE MAILED: 06/05/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/499,819	KUDITIPUDI ET AL.	
	Examiner Douglas B Blair	Art Unit 2142	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 March 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-5,10-14,16-23 and 25 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-5,10-14,16-23 and 25 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on 18 March 2003 is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Claims 1-5, 10-14, 16-23 and 25 are now pending in this action. Claims 6-9, 15 and 24 have been cancelled.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 2-3 and 16 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. Limitations from these claims are now part of their respective parent claims and should now be cancelled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 3-13, 16-21, and 24-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent Number 6,487,204 to Dacier et al. in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,286,038 to Reichmeyer et al..

5. As to claim 1, Dacier teaches a switch of a network comprising: a topology database having configuration information, the configuration information includes a name of the switch

(col. 3, lines 3-37, The name of the switch comprises a peer address and a unique number.); and

a mechanism for sending the configuration from the topology database to the network and for

receiving configuration information from the network and storing it in the topology database

(col. 1, lines 13-52, Each node sends and receives configuration information by “flooding”.), the

sending and receiving mechanism include a switch agent for receiving configuration information

from the network (col. 1, lines 13-52), the switch agent looks up in the topology database and

returns requested information.(col. 1, lines 13-52); however, Dacier does not explicitly teach

configuration including an IP address, a software version, and a hardware type or the use of an

SNMP query.

Reichmeyer teaches configuration information including an IP address (col. 8, lines 33-42), a software version (col. 8, lines 18-32, The code level is a software version.), and a hardware type (col. 8, lines 18-32) and a switch wherein a switch agent looks up in the topology database and returns requested information of an SNMP query from the network (col. 4, lines 44-50)..

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the Computer Networking art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Dacier regarding a switch that stores topology information with the teachings of Reichmeyer regarding the use of SNMP messages because SNMP provides an efficient method for communication (col. 4, lines 44-50 of Reichmeyer).

6. As to claims 2 and 3, they feature limitations already present in claim 1 and are therefore rejected for the same reasons as claim 1.

7. As to claim 4, Reichmeyer teaches a switch wherein the switch agent forms an SNMP query from the network (col. 4, lines 44-50).

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8. As to claim 5, Dacier teaches a switch wherein the topology database has all configuration information of the network (col. 3, lines 55-67 and col. 4, lines 1-12).
9. As to claim 10, Dacier teaches a switch wherein the configuration information includes a unique ID of the switch (col. 3, lines 3-37, The peer address and unique number form a unique ID of the switch.).
10. As to claim 11, Dacier teaches a switch wherein the configuration information includes a remote index of the switch (col. 3, lines 3-37, The unique address within the peer group is a remote index.).
11. As to claim 12, Reichmeyer teaches a switch wherein the configuration information includes nodal flags of the switch (col. 8, lines 33-42).
12. As to claim 13, Reichmeyer teaches a switch wherein the configuration information includes an interface name for the address of the switch (col. 8, lines 18-32).
13. As to claim 14, Dacier teaches a telecommunications system comprising: S switches, where S is an integer greater than or equal to 2, each switch having topology database with all configuration information of the S switches, any one switch providing all the configuration information for all of the S switches, wherein the switches send configuration information to each other, and the switches send and return queries to each other (col. 1, lines 13-52); however, Dacier does not explicitly teach configuration including an IP address, a software version, and a hardware type or the use of an SNMP query. Reichmeyer teaches these features as described in the rejection of claim 1. For reasons discussed in the rejection of claim 1, it would be obvious to combine Dacier with Reichmeyer.

14. As to claim 16, it features limitations which are now part of claim 14 and is rejected for the same reasons as claim 14.

15. As to claim 17, Dacier teaches a system wherein the switches attach a systems information group to a nodal information group to propagate the configuration information to the other switches in response to query (col. 3, lines 3-37, Figure 2 shows how configuration information can be propagated from an information group to a nodal information group.); however, Dacier does not teach the use of SNMP messages.

Reichmeyer teaches the use of SNMP messages for spreading configuration information (col. 4, lines 4-50).

16. As to claim 18, Dacier teaches a system wherein the switches have one or more logical nodes (col. 3, lines 3-37).

17. As to claim 19, Dacier teaches a system wherein the nodes form a first PNNI peer group (col. 3, lines 3-37).

18. As to claim 20, Dacier teaches a system including a plurality of PNNI peer groups (col. 3, lines 3-37).

19. As to claim 21, Dacier teaches a system wherein any node of the first PNNI peer group can provide all the configuration information for the first PNNI peer group (col. 3, lines 55-67 and col. 4, lines 1-13).

20. As to claim 22, Dacier teaches a method for operating a telecommunications network comprising the steps of: placing configuration information of a first switch, the configuration includes a name of the switch (col. 1, lines 13-52); propagating the configuration information of the first switch to a second switch of the network (col. 1, lines 13-52); however, Dacier does not

explicitly teach configuration including an IP address, a software version, and a hardware type or a method of sending an SNMP query from a second switch to a first switch

Reichmeyer teaches a method in which configuration information includes an IP address, a software version, and a hardware type (col. 8, lines 18-32) and a method wherein a switch sends an SNMP query to another switch for configuration information in the topology information of the first switch (col. 4, lines 44-50).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the Computer Networking art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Dacier regarding a switch that stores topology information with the teachings of Reichmeyer regarding the use of SNMP messages because SNMP provides an efficient method for communication (col. 4, lines 44-50 of Reichmeyer).

21. As to claim 23, Dacier teaches a method wherein the first and second switches are in a PNNI peer group, and after the propagating step, there is the step of retrieving configuration information for all the switches in the PNNI peer group from the first switch (col. 3, lines 55-67 and col. 4, lines 1-13, By “flooding” any node can provide configuration information to any other node.).

22. As to claim 25, Dacier teaches a method wherein a propagating step includes the steps of attaching a system information group having the configuration information from the topology database of a first switch requested by a query to a nodal information group (col. 3, lines 3-37, Figure 2 shows how configuration information can be propagated from an information group to a nodal information group.); and propagating the system information group attached to the nodal information group to the second switch (col. 3, lines 3-37, Figure 2 shows how configuration information can be propagated from an information group to a nodal information group.).

Response to Arguments

23. Applicant's arguments filed 3/18/2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant argues the following points: (a) Dacier does not teach or suggest a topology database having configuration information as found in amended claim 1; (b) Reichmeyer does not teach or suggest a topology database having configuration information where the configuration formation includes the name of the switch, the IP address of the switch, the software version of the switch and the hardware type of the switch; and (c) There is no teaching or suggestion in the references themselves to combine what the Examiner purports to be the relevant teachings in the references to arrive at the applicants' claimed invention.

24. As to point (a), the information referred to in col. 1, line 37 of Dacier is considered configuration information. This information is used to maintain a topological database (col. 1, lines 30-31).

25. As to point (b), Dacier teaches a topology database having configuration information including the name of the switch as described in the previous office action (col. 3, lines 3-37, The name of the switch comprises a peer address and a unique number.). Reichmeyer teaches the distribution of configuration information including the IP address of switch, the software version of the switch in col. 8, lines 33-42.

26. As to point (c), both references deal with the propagation of configuration information throughout a network (col. 2, lines 19-29 of Dacier and col. 1, lines 34-44 of Reichmeyer). In such a context it makes sense to combine the Dacier and Reichmeyer references.

Conclusion

27. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

28. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas B Blair whose telephone number is 703-305-5267. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5pm Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Powell can be reached on 703-305-9703. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3800.

Douglas Blair
June 2, 2003
DBB

Mark R. Powell
MARK POWELL
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